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KIDD, B. *Social evolution*. (New York: Macmillan. 1915. Pp. ix, 404. \$1.50.)

A new printing of the 1894 edition, which does not differ in form from the edition of 1898, the plates being the same.

MASSLOW, P. *L'évolution de l'économie nationale*. Translated from the Russian by SCHAPIRO. (Paris: Giard & Brière. 1914. 7.20 fr.)

PALGRAVE, R. H. I. *Dictionary of political economy*. Vol. 1, A - E. New edition. (London: Macmillan. 1915. Pp. 818. 21s.)

SCHUELLER, R. *Les économistes classiques et leurs adversaires. L'économie politique et la politique sociale depuis Adam Smith*. (Paris: Alcan. 1914. 2.25 fr.)

WALKER, G. *Capital; a popular discussion of savings, profits and the rights of property ownership from a new viewpoint; the fundamentals of economic science in the English of every day use*. (Boston: Dukelow & Walker Co. 1914. Pp. 64. 15c.)

Economic History and Geography

Commerce of Rhode Island, 1726-1800. Vol. I. 1726-1774.

Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society, Seventh Series, Vol. IX. (Boston. 1914. Pp. xiii, 525. \$3.00.)

The number of printed documents dealing with our early commerce, particularly during the colonial period, is so manifestly insufficient for the needs of the historian as to make any addition to it on a fairly large scale a matter of great satisfaction. It is an impressive commentary on the attitude toward history taken in the past by the agencies in this country for the publication of historical documents, that the commercial correspondence contained in the volume before us and to be completed in a second volume to follow, is the first adequate body of such material that has ever been put into print. What with the old-time belief of the historian that commerce is not a phase of history and the failure of the economist to pay any very systematic attention to historical research, commerce as a topic for serious and scholarly investigation has been left severely alone. Much has been written about commercial policy and organization, based in large part on statutes, contemporary pamphlets, and isolated statements found here and there among the records, but of commerce as a form of business enterprise we know very little. References to the influence of commercial activities on the social and political life of the colonies are common enough in our literature, but they are as a rule generalizations resting on scattered evidence or on occasional expressions of contemporary opinion that may or may not be

sufficient thereto. The actual business records of a dozen commercial houses, representing half a dozen colonies and covering half a century or more in time would probably enable us to effect some important modifications in the current conclusions regarding commerce during the years before 1783.

The volume under review, issued by the Massachusetts Historical Society through the generosity of ex-Senator George Peabody Wetmore, contains a part of the correspondence of certain firms of the town of Newport, Rhode Island. Unfortunately the records are very meager for the period before 1765, owing probably to dispersion and loss after the discovery of the documents. This is a matter of regret, as the period before 1760 is the one for which adequate evidence is chiefly lacking. Then, too, a part of the early material here given is the commercial correspondence of a Rhode Island merchant who had a sugar plantation of his own in Antigua and so represents a commercial situation that was not typical of colonial commerce in general. Distinctly the most important contribution made by this volume is to the history of the period after the passage of the Stamp Act. Here we have not only facts and figures, but also expressions of hope and fear, dissatisfaction and anger, illustrating the relations between the merchants in Newport and their agents in London and elsewhere, during a period of dull trade, bad and glutted markets, low or falling prices, and shrinking credit. We are, as it were, admitted behind the scene and allowed to watch the actual forces at work compelling the repeal of that important but disastrous measure.

Throughout the volume, on almost every page, will be found data increasing our knowledge of the incidents of commercial activity. Facts and statistics are given regarding cargoes, trade routes, staples, shipping, and to a small extent smuggling. The material furnished for the study of money and exchange is of great value. To the student interested in the distribution of exported staples to the world outside, and of imports to the jobbers and retailers within, the book is useful and suggestive. The varied forms of business in which these merchants engaged and the shrewdness with which they carried them on are indicative of the enterprise of the two types of merchants involved, the Jew and the Yankee. Upon one point raised by these and other documents we want more light. Did the Northern Colonies get the bulk of their hard money by trading with the foreign West Indies, as our histories have taught us for years, and was the Molasses Act on that account

a criminal blow to their prosperity? The sugar planters flatly denied the statements of their opponents, and there is evidence here and elsewhere that upholds their contention. Have not our writers been depending in the past too much on the unsupported assertions of ex-parte pamphleteers?

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Cyclopedia of American Government. Edited by ANDREW C. McLAUGHLIN and ALBERT BUSHNELL HART. Three volumes. (New York: D. Appleton and Company. 1914. Pp. xxxiv, 732; vi, 772; v, 785. \$22.50.)

This work, begun about four years ago, will prove of value, not only as a convenient book of reference to the general reader interested in public affairs, but also as a means by which the specialist in government may secure condensed information in fields related to his own particular interest. In comparison with the only similar work in English, Lalor's *Cyclopedia of Political Science, Political Economy, and of the Political History of the United States* (3 vols., 1881-1884), several important differences are apparent. American history is subordinated, except as it serves as a background for governmental organization and function, and economics is considered mainly in its connection with current problems in American political life. The chief changes in emphasis, the increased attention given to extra-legal political methods, to local municipal government, and to the extension of public functions for the purpose of promoting general welfare, are significant of the changes that have taken place in American political theory and practice since Lalor's day.

In drawing up a general plan for the work, the editors divided the field of American government into five major headings: (1) The Land and the People, (2) Theory and Principles, (3) History, (4) Organization, and (5) Functions. Under the first topic fall discussions of American physiography and political geography, and of personal and race elements in the United States. Something over 200 biographical sketches of men who have played a prominent part in American government are included under this heading. About two thirds of these brief biographies, averaging about 200 words each, were prepared by Professor MacDonald, and about 45 deal with men still living. Under the general division of political principles are included definitions of legal terms,